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## **Families celebrate Adoption Day**

By SUE LOUNDS Editor

ST. JOHNS — Several Clinton County families will have a new and special reason to be grateful this Thanksgiving. Nov. 22, two days before the holiday, Judge Lisa Sullivan will finalize adoptions for one or more children in those families.

Nov. 22 is the third annual Michigan Adoption Day, a statewide event sponsored jointly by the Michigan Supreme Court and the Department of Human Services. Last year on Adoption Day, courts in 42 Michigan counties finalized 339 adoptions. Several Clinton County children became official, legal members of their respective families that day.

"We're very excited about this event," said Judge Sullivan. "In most cases, people are not happy to come to court. Adoptions are the exception: a joyous occasion for the families and for the court, the Department of Human Services and local agencies."

Judge Sullivan stresses the importance of adoption to children from troubled backgrounds.

"Adoption is the only answer for children who can never return home because of abuse or neglect. There are many children available for adoption here in Michigan, waiting for safe, loving homes."

"Giving thanks for families" is the theme for Michigan Adoption Day held annually during the week of Thanksgiving.

The Clinton County adoption finalizations will take place from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners room at the Clinton County Courthouse. A reception will follow and is open to the public. Information on the adoption process will also be available that day.

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Back